

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 5, 2021

The Honorable Michael S. Regan  
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
USEPA William Jefferson Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Regan:

We write to express concern regarding the availability of replacement diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) sensors for American truckers due to the global microchip shortage. We strongly urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue to support OEM efforts to implement and install the software update with minimal cost and regulatory burden. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

The shortage of microchips has resulted in trucks being parked longer than necessary, further straining the supply chain that is in the midst of a crisis. A DEF sensor software update would allow these trucks to get back on the road instead of waiting for replacement sensors.

DEF sensors can “derate” trucks, forcing them to slow to 5 mph, if high-DEF levels are detected or the sensor is faulty. This prevents the affected truck from hauling freight and if an over-the-road commercial vehicle is derated while under load, then a potentially unsafe situation is created for the driver, other travelers, the shipper and/or receiver, and the insurance company responsible for the load.

The supply chain crisis is growing worse by the day and is exacerbated by the global microchip shortage. In the United States, on any given day upwards of 10,000 trucks may be disabled due to DEF sensor-related issues. The problem is intensified by a shortage of microchips and technicians. As a result, trucks may be idled for as long as 14 days, imposing further hardships on independent truckers, freight carriers, shippers, and consumers.

While we are encouraged with reports that EPA has signed off on a software update, it is imperative the fix is implemented quickly to reduce the burden on truckers and motor carriers who are working around the clock to deliver goods across the country. We look forward to your response on this important matter.

Sincerely,



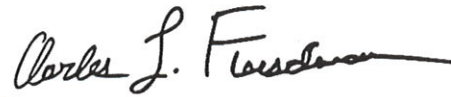
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